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PROGRAM The Ten O'Clock News STATION WTTG TV

DATE December 3, 1985 10:00 PM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Buying and Selling of Top Secret Documents

MORRIS JONES: Another type of world trade is in the forefront of the news this evening, the buying and selling of top secret documents possibly vital to our national defense.

The wife of accused spy Johnathan Pollard has been ordered to stay behind bars pending a grand jury hearing some time this month.

But Channel 5's eric Rabe reports, even with several accused spies in jail, the U.S. still might be losing information.

ERIC RABE: Despite the arrests of a string of spies recently, the United States is still hemorrhaging sensitive information, according to two former spies and a key senator. As high a priority for the Soviets as military secrets is information on high technology. That makes California's Silicone Valley a key target.

Convicted spy James Harper worked there and says he has little doubt hi-tech information like he provided is still flowing to the Soviets.

JAMES HARPER: A lot of technical information.

MAN: Was sold to the Soviet Block?

HARPER: Technical information, manufacturing information, hardware.

RABE: A Senate subcommittee listened as Harper described the ease with which he routinely traveled to Poland with

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suitcases full of technical papers. He returned with as much as $100,000 a trip.

The Soviet Union has long been known to use satellite countries like Poland to gather intelligence. But the United States government is rarely as concerned about the activities of satellite officials as they are about the Russians. Former Czech spy Gladyslaw Sigman (?) says that's a mistake.

GLADYSLAW SIGMAN: There is absolutely no defense, no, between an operative of the Hungarian or the Czechoslovakian intelligence and the Soviet intelligence. Now as far as the result of these operations, there are no differences.

RABE: Nevertheless, diplomats of satellite countries are allowed freer travel in the United States than the Soviets get, and they have trade offices in dozens of areas where the Soviets are not allowed to go. Even worse may be the Soviets' routine monitoring of American telecommunications. They get valuable technical and military information, and from their new hilltop embassy in Washington, they may also pick up tidbits to blackmail potential spies into cooperating.

Former intelligence chairman Daniel Patrick Moynihan says it's been going on for ten years without protest from the U.S.

SEN. DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN: And I don't see how you can assume that there is no connection between the number of spies that appeared in this country the last couple weeks and the fact that the Soviets have been listening to telephone conversations for ten years. And we haven't ever even so much as said to them, please don't.

RABE: Of course, the United States listens in on the Soviets too, and some say more would be lost than gained by making a fuss. Still, few argue with one senator who said today, the spy business is a growth industry in the United States.

Eric Rabe, Metromedia News, Capitol Hill.

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